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**Cattle on Feed, Colorado and United States
1,000+ Capacity April 1 to May 1, 2005-2006**

Item	Colorado		United States	
	2005	2006	2005	2006
	1,000 head			
On Feed April 1	1,020	1,070	10,873	11,812
Placements During Apr.	120	140	1,660	1,629
< 600 pounds	20	40	340	385
600 - 699 Pounds	20	25	225	270
700 - 799 Pounds	35	35	500	444
800 Plus Pounds	45	40	595	530
Marketings During Apr.	150	140	1,801	1,794
Other Disap. During Apr.	20	10	91	87
On Feed May 1	970	1,060	10,641	11,560

CATTLE ON FEED

May 1, 2006

The number of cattle and calves on feed for the slaughter market in Colorado feedlots with a capacity of 1,000 head or larger was estimated at 1,060,000 head as of May 1, 2006. The latest inventory was down 1 percent from April 1, 2006, but up 9 percent from the 970,000 on feed on May 1, 2005. Cattle feeders with 1,000 head or larger capacity marketed an estimated 140,000 head of fed cattle during April 2006. This was 15 percent below a March 2006 marketings of 165,000 head, and 7 percent below April marketings one year earlier. An estimated 140,000 cattle and calves were placed on feed during April, 17 percent above a year ago but 10 percent below March 2006 placements of 155,000. Of the number placed in April, 29 percent weighed less than 600 pounds, 18 percent weighed from 600 to 699 pounds, 25 percent weighed from 700 to 799 pounds, and 29 percent weighed 800 pounds and greater. Other disappearance for April, at 10,000 head, was down 10,000 head from April 2005, but represents no change from March.

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 11.6 million head on May 1, 2006. The inventory was 9 percent above May 1, 2005 and 11 percent above May 1, 2004. This is the highest May 1 inventory since the series began in 1996. Placements in feedlots during April totaled 1.63 million, 2 percent below 2005 but 2 percent above 2004. Net placements were 1.54 million. During April, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 385,000, 600-699 pounds were 270,000, 700-799 pounds were 444,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 530,000. Marketings of fed cattle during April totaled 1.79 million, down slightly from 2005 and 5 percent below 2004. This is the lowest fed cattle marketings for the month of April since the series began in 1996. Other disappearance totaled 87,000 during April, 4 percent below 2005 and 10 percent below 2004.

POTATO STOCKS

May 1, 2006

Fall potato stocks in the **San Luis Valley** of **Colorado** totaled 4.3 million cwt as of May 1, 2006, down 28 percent from the 6.0 million cwt in storage one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 19 percent of the 22.29 million cwt produced in 2005. The May 1, 2005 stocks represented 25 percent of the 23.79 million cwt produced in 2004. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for **table stock** have accounted for 69 percent of the total production during the 2000-2004 period. The remaining 31 percent of the production is utilized for seed, processing, and home use or is lost through shrinkage.

The 13 major potato States held 73.0 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2006, down 17 percent from last year and 14 percent below May 1, 2004, for comparable States. Ohio and Pennsylvania were dropped from the potato stocks program starting with the 2005 storage season. Potatoes in storage account for 20 percent of the 2005 fall storage States' production, down 2 percentage points from last year.

Disappearance of 300 million cwt from the start of harvest to May 1, is down 4 percent from last year for comparable States. Shrink and loss, at 23.2 million cwt, is down 21 percent from last year for comparable States.

Processors have used 150 million cwt of 2005 crop

**Hay Stocks on Farms,
Selected States and U. S., May 1, 2004-2006**

State	2004	2005	2006
	1,000 tons		
Alabama	487	356	264
Arizona.....	55	35	40
Arkansas.....	600	660	210
California.....	306	215	180
Colorado.....	610	470	460
Connecticut.....	14	21	9
Delaware.....	4	5	4
Florida	52	26	60
Georgia.....	342	292	198
Idaho.....	445	535	375
Illinois.....	408	460	324
Indiana.....	253	345	207
Iowa.....	605	1,250	1,000
Kansas	1,400	1,735	800
Kentucky	1,466	1,186	635
Louisiana	115	128	81
Maine.....	33	39	25
Maryland	60	86	74
Massachusetts.....	15	17	17
Michigan.....	250	500	395
Minnesota.....	575	884	1,150
Mississippi.....	244	199	210
Missouri.....	1,462	2,166	873
Montana.....	790	860	1,463
Nebraska.....	1,596	1,440	1,070
Nevada.....	121	80	209
New Hampshire.....	11	12	8
New Jersey	40	36	8
New Mexico	115	164	133
New York.....	552	440	285
North Carolina.....	405	350	282
North Dakota.....	828	917	1,806
Ohio.....	556	420	363
Oklahoma	1,275	1,385	550
Oregon.....	371	362	210
Pennsylvania.....	570	650	410
Rhode Island.....	2	2	1
South Carolina.....	186	120	120
South Dakota.....	1,515	2,100	2,140
Tennessee	1,182	1,025	742
Texas	2,849	2,779	896
Utah	279	300	262
Vermont.....	86	71	57
Virginia.....	758	791	730
Washington.....	470	322	250
West Virginia	191	212	214
Wisconsin.....	920	927	1,135
Wyoming.....	478	383	380
United States	25,947	27,758	21,315

potatoes so far this season, down 2 percent from a year ago and 3 percent below 2 years ago. Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon, total processing decreased 2 percent from a year ago and Washington and the rest of Oregon total processing dropped 3 percent from last season. Dehydrating usage accounts for 30.8 million cwt of the total processing, down 8 percent from last year and 11 percent below the same date in 2004.

Idaho's potato stocks are down 22 percent from last year, while Maine's sheds held 8 percent less than last year, and Colorado's stocks dropped 28 percent from last season. Stocks in Wisconsin decreased 3 percent from 2005. North Dakota's potato stocks dropped 61 percent from last year, while Minnesota's stocks are 47 percent below last year, and California's potato sheds held 20 percent less than in 2005.

HAY STOCKS **MAY 1, 2006**

Hay stocks on **Colorado** farms and ranches as of May 1, 2006 totaled 460,000 tons, down 2 percent from stocks of 470,000 tons on hand May 1 last year. Increases in both the cattle and sheep herd size along with continued supplemental feeding of hay due to poor pasture conditions were contributing factors in the decrease.

All hay stored for the **United States** May 1, 2006 on farms totaled 21.3 million tons, down 23 percent from the previous year. Disappearance of hay from December 1, 2005 - May 1, 2006, totaled 83.7 million tons, 3 percent less than the disappearance of 86.8 million tons for the same period a year earlier.

Thirty-six of the 48 reporting States had lower May 1 hay stocks than a year ago. Hay stocks in most of these States were also below year ago levels for December 1 which resulted in the lower May 1 stocks. Drought conditions during the summer months of 2005 in the central Corn Belt and southern Great Plains States resulted in increased supplemental feeding of hay, reducing the December 1 stocks.

The largest decreases in May 1 stocks compared with last year occurred in Texas and Missouri, where drought conditions continued through the winter and this spring. As a result of the drought, pasture growth has been stunted and cattle producers have been forced to continue heavy feeding from already short hay supplies. Many producers in Texas began purchasing hay from other States in February.

CROP PRODUCTION MAY 1, 2006

Durum Wheat

Production of Durum wheat in Arizona and California is forecast at a collective 12.7 million bushels, down 12 percent from last year. In California, cool and wet conditions during the spring damaged wheat in some fields.

Winter Wheat

Winter wheat production in **Colorado**, based on conditions as of May 1, 2006, is forecast at 54.0 million bushels. This forecast is 2 percent above last year's production, and 18 percent above the winter wheat crop produced two years ago.

Acres for harvest, estimated at 2.00 million acres, is 200,000 acres less than a year ago. Average yield is forecast at 27.0 bushels per acre, up 3.0 bushels per acre from last year's crop. Conditions were favorable for fall seeding, but a dry winter followed by a dry spring reduced yield potential in most of the growing areas. Currently, topsoil moisture supplies are significantly less than last year at this time and are rated short to adequate in most areas. Subsoil supplies are also diminished and are rated mostly very short to short. Most areas will need additional moisture for normal grain development. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

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Winter Wheat: Acres harvested, yield and production, selected states and United States, 2004-2006

STATE	Acres harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2005	Indicated 2006	2005	Indicated 2006	2004	2005	Indicated 2006
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Arkansas	160	300	52.0	54.0	32,860	8,320	16,200
California	300	220	72.0	60.0	27,200	21,600	13,200
Colorado	2,200	2,000	24.0	27.0	45,900	52,800	54,000
Delaware	51	46	70.0	51.0	2,726	3,570	2,346
Georgia	140	130	52.0	45.0	8,550	7,280	5,850
Idaho	730	710	91.0	90.0	63,000	66,430	63,900
Illinois	600	870	61.0	63.0	53,100	36,600	54,810
Indiana	340	450	72.0	69.0	27,280	24,480	31,050
Kansas	9,500	9,400	40.0	34.0	314,500	380,000	319,600
Kentucky	300	310	68.0	68.0	20,520	20,400	21,080
Maryland	140	130	66.0	60.0	8,555	9,240	7,800
Michigan	590	580	66.0	68.0	40,960	38,940	39,440
Mississippi	65	70	50.0	55.0	7,155	3,250	3,850
Missouri	540	870	54.0	53.0	48,360	29,160	46,110
Montana	2,100	1,950	45.0	42.0	66,830	94,500	81,900
Nebraska	1,760	1,650	39.0	38.0	61,050	68,640	62,700
New York	95	120	54.0	56.0	5,300	5,130	6,720
North Carolina	435	440	57.0	48.0	23,000	24,795	21,120
Ohio	830	960	71.0	69.0	55,180	58,930	66,240
Oklahoma	4,000	3,100	32.0	22.0	164,500	128,000	68,200
Oregon	780	760	61.0	55.0	47,580	47,580	41,800
Pennsylvania	145	155	54.0	51.0	6,615	7,830	7,905
South Carolina	165	125	52.0	45.0	7,920	8,580	5,625
South Dakota	1,490	1,250	44.0	45.0	56,250	65,560	56,250
Tennessee	150	190	56.0	56.0	13,720	8,400	10,640
Texas	3,000	1,300	32.0	27.0	108,500	96,000	35,100
Virginia	160	170	63.0	56.0	9,900	10,080	9,520
Washington	1,800	1,800	67.0	68.0	117,250	120,600	122,400
Wisconsin	175	235	57.0	63.0	12,600	9,975	14,805
Other States ^{1/}	1,053	886	40.3	36.9	42,573	42,459	32,670
United States	33,794	31,177	44.4	42.4	1,499,434	1,499,129	1,322,831

^{1/}Other States include AL, AZ, FL, IA, LA, MN, NV, NJ, NM, ND, UT, WV, and WY. Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Small Grains 2006 Summary", September 29, 2006.

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United States production of winter wheat is forecast at 1.32 billion bushels, down 12 percent from 2005. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 42.4 bushels per acre, 2.0 bushels less than last year. Grain area totals 31.2 million acres, down 8 percent from last season. Hard Red Winter (HRW) harvested acreage is down about 14 percent from the previous year compared to the Soft Red Winter harvested acreage being up about 17 percent. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on April 30, at 36 percent, was 27 percentage points below last year.

Dry weather conditions in the central and southern Great Plains have resulted in dramatically reduced harvested acreage in the Hard Red Winter (HRW) growing region. The yield potential of the crop has been significantly reduced in Texas and Oklahoma due to continued drought conditions. In Texas, wheat production is forecast at the lowest since 1971 and acres harvested for grain are the lowest since 1925. Rain showers during the latter portion of April were beneficial, but due to the extent of drought damage, did little to improve the crop.

Oklahoma has experienced one of the worst droughts in history. There was no measurable rainfall across the State from the end of October through the first of March. Farther north, wheat jointed and headed in Kansas ahead of the 5-year average, however, soil moisture supplies continue to be a major concern especially in the western portion of the State. In Nebraska, disease and insect pressures are minimal while soil moisture supplies are mostly short in the major wheat growing areas.

MILK PRODUCTION APRIL 2006

Colorado dairy herds produced 205 million pounds of milk during April, up 13 million pounds from the same period a year earlier. The average number of cows was 108,000, up nearly 5 percent from the previous year. Production per cow averaged 1,900 pounds for April, 2 percent above the 1,865 produced a year ago.

Milk production in the 23 major States during April totaled 14.2 billion pounds, up 3.7 percent from April 2005. March revised production, at 14.6 billion pounds, was up 5.6 percent from March 2005. The March revision represented an increase of 25 million pounds or 0.2 percent from last month's preliminary production estimate.

Production per cow in the 23 major States averaged 1,727 pounds for April, 37 pounds above April 2005.

The number of milk cows on farms in the 23 major States was 8.24 million head, 124,000 head more than April 2005, and 13,000 head more than March 2006.

Milk Cows and Milk Production, Colorado and 23 States

Item	April 2005	Mar. 2006	April 2006
Colorado			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u>	103	107	108
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u>	1,865	1,980	1,900
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u>	192	212	205
23 States			
Milk Cows (1,000 head) <u>1/</u>	8,117	8,228	8,241
Milk Per Cow (lbs.) <u>2/</u>	1,690	1,775	1,727
Production (mil. lbs.) <u>2/</u>	13,717	14,604	14,230

1/ Average number during year, excludes heifers not yet fresh.

2/ Excludes milk sucked by calves.

UPCOMING REPORTS

Colorado and U.S. data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

- May 31 - Agricultural Prices
- June 09 - Crop Production
- June 14 - Turkey Hatchery
- June 14 - Potato Stocks
- June 16 - Milk Production
- June 22 - Cold Storage
- June 23 - Cattle on Feed
- June 23 - Chickens and Eggs
- June 23 - Livestock Slaughter
- June 29 - Agricultural Prices
- June 30 - Hogs and Pigs
- June 30 - Acreage
- June 30 - Grain Stocks

R. René Picanso
Director

Steve Anderson
Deputy Director